In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 57, 63, 72, 81, 91, 93 and 95, all as shown below. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented claims in a future or continuing application.

1-56. (Previously Canceled).

57. (Currently Amended) A system for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment, comprising:

a policy manager located on a server for ~~managing~~ creating a local security policy and for distributing the local security policy to a client wherein the local security policy includes a plurality of rules ~~customizable~~ customized to the client; and

an application guard located at the client for managing access to securable components at a client level as specified by the local security policy, the securable components including at least one application;

wherein the policy manager receives a global security policy that includes a plurality of rules for regulating access to securable components within the system and wherein the policy manager customizes the local security policy by selecting a subset of rules from the global security policy that is applicable to the application guard and distributes the subset to the application guard.

58. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 57 including a function within the application as specified by the security policy.

59-62. (Previously Withdrawn).

63. (Currently Amended) A method for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment, comprising:

receiving a global security policy that includes a plurality of rules for regulating access to securable components in the system, the securable components including at least one application;

~~managing~~ creating a local security policy via a policy manager located on a server, the local security policy including a plurality of rules ~~customizable~~ customized to a client wherein creating the

local security policy includes customizing the local security policy by selecting a subset of rules from the global security policy that is applicable to an application guard located on the client;

distributing the local security policy to the client; and

managing access as specified by the local security policy via ~~an~~ the application guard located at the client to securable components ~~including at least one application~~.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 63 including a function within the application as specified by the security policy.

65-68. (Previously Withdrawn).

69-71. (Previously Canceled).

72. (Currently Amended) A method for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment, comprising the steps of:

receiving a global security policy that includes a plurality of rules for regulating access to securable components in the system, the securable components including at least one application;

providing a policy manager located on a server to ~~manage~~ create a local security policy including a plurality of rules ~~customizable~~ customized to a client wherein creating the local security policy includes customizing the local security policy by selecting a subset of rules from the global security policy that is applicable to an application guard located on the client;

distributing the local security policy to the client; and

providing an application guard located at the client to manage access to securable components at a client level as specified by the local security policy~~, the securable components including at least one application~~.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 72 including a function within the application as specified by the security policy.

74-77. (Previously Withdrawn).

78-80. (Previously Canceled).

81. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium having stored thereon a set of instructions to execute a method for maintaining security in a distributed computing environment comprising the steps of:

receiving a global security policy that includes a plurality of rules for regulating access to securable components in the system, the securable components including at least one application;

~~managing~~ creating a local security policy via a policy manager located on a server, the local security policy including a plurality of rules ~~customizable~~ customized to a client wherein creating the local security policy includes customizing the local security policy by selecting a subset of rules from the global security policy that is applicable to an application guard located on the client;

distributing the local security policy to the client; and

managing access as specified by the local security policy via ~~an~~ the application guard located at the client to securable components ~~including at least one application~~.

82. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of Claim 81 including a function within the application as specified by the security policy.

83-86. (Previously Withdrawn).

87-89. (Previously Canceled).

90. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 57, wherein the application guard further allows for additional customized code to process and evaluate authorization requests based on the additional customized code.

91. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 90, ~~further comprising a~~ wherein the global policy ~~specifying~~ specifies access privileges of a user to securable components.

92. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 72, wherein the application guard further allows for additional customized code to process and evaluate authorization requests based on the additional customized code.

93. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 92~~, further comprising the step of providing a~~ wherein the global policy ~~specifying~~ specifies access privileges of a user to securable components.

94. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 81, wherein the application guard further allows for additional customized code to process and evaluate authorization requests based on the additional customized code.

95. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 94, wherein the ~~method further comprises the step of providing a~~ global policy ~~specifying~~ specifies access privileges of a user to securable components.